THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The number of pending income tax cases in Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bangalore, Ahmedabad and Kanpur since the assessment year 1999-2000 onwards are given in the enclosed statement. *(See* below). However, the details of pending income tax cases, circle-wise are not maintained centrally. A large number of cases are pending for verfication e.g. for non-availability of TDS Certificates, absence of evidence for rebate claim etc.

(b) The number of cases out of the above, where refunds of Rs. 10 lakhs and above to be made to the assessees are 329.

(c) Field Offices have been instructed to issue pending refunds within 4 months from the date of filing of return.

Statement

NUMBER OF PENDING INCOME TAX CASES FOR ASSESSMENT YEARS 1999-2000 TO 2002-2003

S. No.	Name of the Cities	A.Y. 1999-2000	A.Y. 2000-2001	A.Y. 2001-2002	A.Y. 2002-2003
1.	Mumbai	235	233	8375	44626
2.	Chennai	0	0	1021	70314
3.	Kolkata	823	13332	17770	257817
4.	Bangalore	5	9	1134	27934
5.	Ahmedabad	0	0	0	0
6.	Kanpur	0	0	0	62

Directors on the Boards of Banks

2880. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to debar Members of Parliament and State Legislatures from becoming directors on the Boards of Commercial and Cooperative Banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the viewpoint of the Reserve Bank of India has been sought with regard to the proposed move and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

National Tax Tribunal

†2881. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI:
SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA;

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to constitute a National Tax Tribunal for making improvement in the tax system;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including its terms of reference; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government to hasten the pace of getting tax refunds and dispute settlements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) A proposal for setting up of a National Tax Tribunal for settlement of tax disputes is under consideration of the government. The proposal suggests that appeals against orders of Income-tax Appellate Tribunal will lie before the National Tax Tribunal and that appeals against orders of the National Tax Tribunal will lie before the Supreme Court. The details including the terms of reference, are under consideration of the Government.

(c) Field formations have been instructed to process all returns received during the year and issue necessary refunds within four months from date of filing of returns. The proposal for setting up of the National Tax Tribunal is intended to hasten the pace of dispute settlement.

Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana

2882. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the benefits provided under 'Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana' introduced in 2003-04 for citizens above 55 years of age;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.